

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PGOV, LA. TH

SUBJECT: THANOM'S SUPPORT FOR SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND RLG

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: A. BANGKOK 13119; B. VIENTIANE 6019

THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS
FROM PRIME MINISTER THANOM'S PRESS CONFERENCE OA AUGUST 29
REITERATING RTG SUPPORT FOR SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND THE RLG

1. IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION WHETHER THERE IS ANY TRUTH
IN THE REPORT THAT THE DAILY BULLETIN OF THE LAO MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION, DATED AUGUST 21. AND REPORTS SPREAD BY SOME
FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES, THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A
PROTEST TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS WISH TO STATE THAT THE THAI
GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED NO PROTEST WHATSOEVER FROM THE LAO
GOVERNMENT. THE REPORT SPREAD BY SOME FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES
STATED THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAD CALLED UP THE THAI AMBASSADOR
TO LAOS IN ORDER TO PRESENT A PROTEST REGARDING LAO POLITICAL
REFUGEES IN THAILAND HAVING GONE AND STAGED DISTURBANCES
IN LAOS ON AUGUST 20. BOTH THE LAO UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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INFORMED THE THAI AMBASSADOR IN VIENTIANE AND THE LAO AMBASSADOR

TO THAILAND INFORMED OUR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE
LAO GOVERNMENT KNOWS FULL WELL THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT FULLY
SUPPORTS THE LAOS GOVERNMENT HEADED BY PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA.

2. AS SOON AS A REPORT WAS RECIVED THAT A COUP HAD BEEN
STAGED IN LAOS, THE THAI GOVERNMENT TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTION.
I SENT A CABLE TO PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA EXPRESSING CONCERN
OVER THE ABORTIVE COUP STATED, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EXPRESSING
JOY THAT HE WAS SAFE AND THAT HE HAD THE SITUATION WELL UNDER
CONTROL. I REASSERTED THE FIRM INTENTION OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT
TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING EVERY LAO GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LEABUCSHIP
OF PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA WITH NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER.
WHEN A REQUEST WAS MADE BY THE LAOS GOVERNMENT TO SEND OFFICIALS
TO COME AND TAKE BACK THE PLANE WHICH THE LAOS REBELS HAD
USED TO FLEE TO THAILAND, THE THAI GOVERNMENT AGREED AT ONCE.
THE LAO AUTHORITIES ARE CONTACTING THAI OFFICIALS CONCERNED IN
ORDER TO TAKE THE PLANE BACK TO LAOS.

3. IN REGARD TO THE REBELS WHO FLIED INTO THAILAND, AS WELL AS
LAO POLITICAL REFUGEES HERE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE ABORTIVE
COUP STAGED, THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED ORDERS FOR THEM TO BE
ROUNDED UP AT ONCE AND FOR THOSE ROUNDED UP TO BE DETAINED IN
CUSTODY, THEN FOR LEGAL ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM WITHOUT
DELAY.

4. PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA HAS SENT A LETTER THROUGH THE LAO
AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND, IN WHICH HE THANED THE THAI GOVERNMENT
FOR THE FIRM SUPPORT GIVEN THE AOS GOVERMENT UNDER HIS
LEADERSHIP. IT IS NOTICEABLE THAT ONLY NORTH VIETNAM. PATHET
LAOS FACTION, AND AFP MADE ALLEGATIONS THAT THAILAND SUPPORTED
THE LAO REBELS. THE WORLD OUTSIDE KNOWS FULL WELL THAT NORTH
VIETNAM IS THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT IS COMITTING AGGRESSION
AGAINST CAMBODIA AND LAOS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES OF THAILAND, AND IT IS ENDEAVORING TO FABRICATE NEWS
REPORTS IN ORDER TO DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF PEOPLE OF THE OUTSIDE
WORLD FROM ITS ACTIONS. THE PATHET LAO FACTION OBEYS ORDERS
GIVEN IT BY NORTH VIETNAM. IN REGARD TO AFP, I DO NOT KNOW
YET WHO IS GIVING IT ORDERS, RESULTING IN IT ATTACKING AND
MAKING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THAILAND.

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